

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087478
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:PDW
APPROVED BY NEA:MDRAPER
AMB. MURPHY (SUBS)
IO/UNP:DMANGEN
NEA/IAI:CHILL
S/S-O:MR. THYDEN

-----000243 052015Z /46

P R 051951Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087478

EXDIS, FOR CHARGE FROM NEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IS, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIA PROTESTS ALLEGED ISRAELI VIOLATION OF
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 1874, (B) TEL AVIV 4452 (NOTAL)

1. WE BELIEVE, ON BASIS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH AMB. MURPHY
IN DEPARTMENT, THAT THERE IS MERIT IN YOUR SEEKING EARLY
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SYRIAN PRESS REPORT OF INCIDENT ON
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GOLAN WITH DEPUTY FONMIN QADDUR AND PASS TO HIM ASSURANCE
WEIZMAN VOLUNTEERED TO AMB. LEWIS ON APRIL 3.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT HAVE FULL STORY ON INCIDENT;
AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, SARG HAS NOT RPT NOT LODGED
COMPLAINT WITH UN DESPITE REPORT BY RADIO DAMASCUS.
NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD PROCEED ON BASIS OF

SYRIAN PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO WHICH WEIZMAN ADDRESSED HIMSELF.

3. YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO QADDUR:

-- WE HAVE NOTED SYRIAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXPLOSION IN GOLAN. WE REGRET LOSS OF SYRIAN LIVES AND ARE CONCERNED BY ANY DEVELOPMENT WHICH RAISES TENSIONS ON GOLAN FRONT. WE

WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CLARIFICATIONS WHICH SARG COULD ADD TO ITS PUBLIC STATEMENT.

-- YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM SARG THAT ISRAELI MINDEF WEIZMAN RAISED SUBJECT DURING APRIL 3 MEETING WITH OUR AMBASSADOR IN TEL AVIV AND VOLUNTEERED DENIAL THAT IDF UNIT HAD CROSSED DISENGAGEMENT LINE AND PLANTED MINE NEAR DAMASCUS-DERA'A ROAD. WEIZMAN ASKED THAT THIS ASSURANCE BE CONVEYED TO APPROPRIATE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES.

-- USG ALSO HOPES THAT ALL CONCERNED WILL EXERCISE UTMOST RESTRAINT. WE ARE CURRENTLY IN A VERY DELICATE PHASE OF EFFORTS TO RESTORE STABILITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, DEPLOYING ELEMENTS OF THE UN FORCE AND THE LEBANESE ARMY AND GENDARMERIE AND SECURING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

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4. FYI. YOU SHOULD PITCH YOUR APPROACH IN LOW KEY. WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE UNDUE PROMINENCE TO INCIDENT BUT FEEL IT WOULD BE USEFUL AND NATURAL TO CONVEY OUR CONCERN AND WEIZMAN ASSURANCES TO QADDUR, WHO WILL PASS THEM TO KHADDAM. WE RECOGNIZE, BASED ON EMBASSY DAMASCUS REPORTING, THAT QADDUR COULD REACT WITH DIFFERENT VERSION OF INCIDENT FROM THAT ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY, INCLUDING ACCUSATION THAT U.S. EQUIPMENT MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. FOR THIS REASON ALSO, BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE THAT WE TAKE INITIATIVE IN RAISING SUBJECT, BUT STRICTLY ON BASIS OF PUBLISHED SYRIAN ACCUSATIONS RE MINE EXPLOSION. SHOULD QADDUR, OR OTHER SYRIAN OFFICIAL, BRACE YOU WITH QUESTION OF ALLEGED U.S.-MANUFACTURED TRANSMITTER, YOU SHOULD COMMENT THAT NEW ALLEGATIONS AT VARIANCE WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CIRCUMSTANCES, REQUEST AVAILABLE SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND SAY THAT YOU WILL REFER INFORMATION TO DEPARTMENT FOR STUDY. VANCE

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